



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Outlines Objectives for California's Share of Federal Election Reform Funding

\$195 million to improve voting in California should result in more people voting on Election Day

SACRAMENTO --- California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today announced that California will receive as much as \$195 million in federal funds to improve voting in California following the President's signing of the \$397 billion budget bill this morning, which includes \$1.5 billion to overhaul the elections process nationwide.

"I'm pleased that this budget includes funds to help improve the way all Americans vote," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. "In addition to the Proposition 41 money, these federal dollars will help strengthen our elections process by improving access for disabled voters at the polls, increasing voter education, and better training our poll workers."

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), signed into law during the 107th Congress, authorizes a total of \$3.9 billion over three years, beginning with \$2.16 billion in fiscal year 2003. The majority of the funding will be distributed to the states over three years to replace old voting equipment and improve election administration.

"The election last November had the lowest voter turnout ever in California history," continued Shelley. A key part of my HAVA implementation plan will be an aggressive outreach campaign to bring California's disenfranchised voters back to the polls."

Shelley has already met with numerous voting rights organizations and election officials from throughout California, and will hold regional public hearings to discuss his HAVA implementation strategy. Part of Shelley's implementation plan will include:

- Increasing accessibility at polling places for disabled voters
- Funding for unprecedented voter outreach and education campaign
- Increased poll worker and election official training
- Creation of the HAVA required state plan
- Expanding California's statewide voter database

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